

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief Ronal W. Serpas**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Missing and Exploited Children Task Force and Missing Children Clearinghouse Host Foreign Dignitaries**

In February, Mr. Luis Antonio Camargo De Melo from Brazil came to Washington State as a guest of the U.S. State Department. Mr. Camargo De Melo serves as the Coordinator of Forced Labor Issues for the Public Ministry of Labor. He also serves as the National Vice-Coordinator for the Fight Against Slave Labor. In Brazil, his efforts are focused on protecting the children who are forced into slavery.

Mr. Camargo De Melo requested a meeting with the Washington State Patrol Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) and the Missing Children Clearinghouse (MCC) to discuss trafficking and exploited children issues. He was introduced to the various types of cases which are investigated by the MECTF, which range from child abductions to crimes involving children on the Internet. MECTF detectives demonstrated specialized equipment and tactics utilized during undercover online investigations. He also met with the MCC to observe the LOCATOR system, which is a unique computer system designed to create and rapidly distribute nationwide posters of abducted children.

In April, MECTF and MCC will be visited by two delegates from China who are part of a research team evaluating the problem of trafficking women and children in their country. Their global study will assist in developing legislation that will combat this type of illegal trafficking.

"The Washington State Patrol is dedicated to working in conjunction with international agencies in an effort to make the state and world a safer place for children," stated Chief Ronal Serpas.

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